WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
   Davis Lake Unit Field Drainage HPA Modification

2. Name of applicant: **Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife – Cowlitz Wildlife Area**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
   Cowlitz Wildlife Area
   PO BOX 758
   Morton, WA 98356
   Mark Grabski – 360.496.6223

4. Date checklist prepared: **June 17, 2009**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
   Existing HPA provides for the project to be completed by February 27, 2011. Work can be conducted any time if streams are dry or between July 1 and September 30 if the stream is not dry.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
   No

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Modification to the existing HPA.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Unusual flooding the last two winters erased all work that had been done on this project. FEMA has agreed to fund this project and the work will be conducted by WDFW engineers. The original HPA addresses the work that needs to be done but does not provide for the necessary measures to complete this project as it now needs to be conducted. Additional SEPA review is necessary to make these modifications. Below is the proposed project description from the original JARPA.

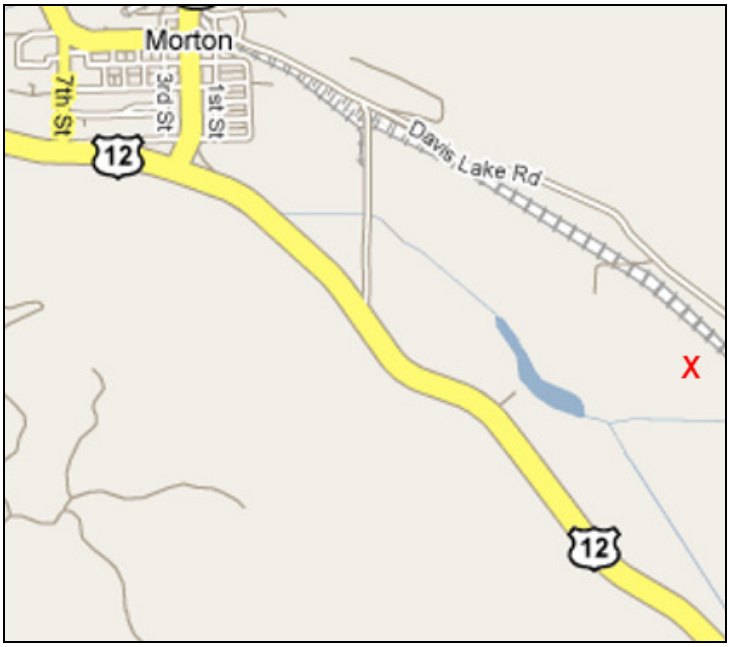
The work will be conducted on that portion of Unnamed Channel (a channelized creek) that flows across wildlife area lands to its confluence with Minnie Creek (see map) and on the agricultural ditches local to the affected fields. The work will be performed using a backhoe and/or a track hoe to remove vegetative debris, debris dams and soil/silt deposits down to historical depth. In addition bank integrity has been compromised in several locations causing high flows to breach the bank and flow into the fields. In those locations we plan to restore the bank to a stable condition using bioengineering techniques.

The purpose of this project is to recover the use of historic agricultural fields. The land was purchased by Tacoma Power to mitigate for the loss of habitat to such wildlife as elk and waterfowl when Mayfield and Riffe Lakes were impounded. The Cowlitz Wildlife Area has a mandate to manage this site for the benefit of area wildlife. Currently, the fields are dominated by reed canarygrass that has interrupted the hydrologic flow, raised the water table, and has made the fields unworkable. In its current state the land provides poor habitat for wildlife and subsequently elk damage complaints on adjacent properties is increasing. This project will facilitate the management of the fields to restore vigor and palatability of the fields encouraging elk use on wildlife area lands and provide optimal migratory waterfowl habitat.
In addition the site's drainage is part of the Lewis County Drainage District #1. It is important that we manage these lands in a way that does not impact adjacent landowners. Since, the drainage no longer functions as historically intended, flooding is normal and landowners up gradient are being negatively impacted in that they can't drain their ground.

The modifications being proposed to the HPA will allow for the removal of up to 2500 cubic feet of material from within 4000 linear feet of Unnamed Channel and L Allen Channel collectively. The material removed (hydric soils) will be side cast, spread out on the field to be reincorporated and finally seeded to prevent future erosion. Since the agricultural fields are composed of hydric soils, soil composition will not be altered. In the upland portion of the Unnamed Channel the removed material (rocks, cobbles and alluvium) will be used to construct a bank to prevent future diversions of the channel into the adjacent agricultural fields. The rest of the provisions of the HPA will remain unaltered.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project is located just east of Morton, WA on Davis Lake Road (see map). It is located in T12N R5E Sec. 7. Additional maps can be found within the JARPA.



B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

The majority of the site is flat with very little gradient.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The upland portion of Unnamed Channel is sloped (~10%) but a grade survey has not been conducted.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The majority of the site is composed of Semiahmoo Muck which is a very deep very poorly drained soil derived primarily from decomposed wetland vegetation. The upland areas are composed of Nesika Loam which is a very deep well drained soil derived primarily from andesite and volcanic ash.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

None

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Any erosion possibilities would occur from future flood events and the reestablishment of a vegetation community to any exposed soils would greatly reduce and or eliminate this likelihood.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Exposed soils will be reseeded and native shrub establishment will be encouraged.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

None

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

NA

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The hydrology of this area is all part of the Lake Creek Watershed which drains eventually into the Tilton River. See JARPA for additional details.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes – see the JARPA and number 11 from the checklist above for complete details.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

See number 11 in the checklist above.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

None

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

NA

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

__x__ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

__x__ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

__x__ shrubs

__x__ grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

__x__ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

_____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Reed canarygrass is growing within the channels, increasing sedimentation and will be removed to allow proper flow.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk**, heron, eagle, **songbirds**, **other**: **waterfowl**
mammals: **deer**, **bear**, **elk**, **beaver**, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **None observed but presence possible**

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes – winter migratory waterfowl

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The project is an enhancement project with the purpose of improving forage for area wildlife and wintering waterfowl habitat.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

NA

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

NA

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Equipment (i.e. trackhoe) during daylight work hours.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The current use of the project site is agricultural and mitigation for Tacoma Power's FERC license. The uses of other properties adjacent to the wildlife area are residential and agricultural.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes, historically the whole Davis Lake valley was used for agricultural purposes. The project site was used for pasture and hay in most recent history prior to the purchase by Tacoma. The wildlife area still uses the land for forage fields for wildlife and we have an agreement with a local landowner to remove hay from select fields to improve the forage for wintering wildlife.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is a barn used for storing wildlife area equipment.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

81 Agricultural

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The site is designated as a critical area with hydric soils and part of the NWI.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The shoreline designation for Minnie Creek is conservancy. Minnie Creek is not part of the project but the project channels connect with Minnie Creek. None of the project waters are designated.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

NA

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

NA

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

NA

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

NA

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

NA

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

NA

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

NA

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

NA

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

NA

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Hunting, fishing, birdwatching, hiking and etc.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

NA

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

NA

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

NA

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

NA

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

NA

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

NA

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

NA

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

NA

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

NA

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

NA

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

NA

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

NA

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

NA

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: June 17, 2009

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise? **NA**

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: **NA**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? **In time the water quality, temperature and the streambed composition is expected to be more conducive to the needs of fish, amphibians and other wildlife.**

   Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: **None**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? **NA**

   Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: **NA**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? **NA**

   Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: **NA**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? **NA**

   Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: **NA**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? **NA**

   Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: **NA**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. **It is believed that this project is compliant with all environmental laws and provides only positive benefits for environmental resources.**